

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least two notches are located next to one another.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein notches are staggered on opposite sides.

Claim 4 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in 9, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel is hydrophilized.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exposed surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously amended): Device as claimed in claim 12, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements, wherein the device comprises:

a carrier,

a detection element having opposite first and second ends, ~~the first end being positioned adjacent to the carrier, and~~

a cover having a surface ~~that cooperates and first and second opposite edges~~ the second edge facing the detection element, the cover cooperating with a surface of the carrier and with the detection element to form a capillary-active channel, the channel having a sample application opening defined by at least one edge, the channel extending at least from the opening to the second end of the detection element, and

Do not  
enter  
2/5/2004  
EQ